



# **CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD**

## **Meeting Minutes #729**

**December 2, 2010**



**Tom Moran, Chair**  
**Thomas Richards, Vice Chair**  
**Vernon Chong, Board Member**

**Donna L. Dacier, Board Member**  
**Derek McGinnis, Board Member**

The California Veterans Board met in Sacramento at the California Department of Veterans Affairs at 9:00 AM.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Tom Moran, Chair, Thomas Richards, Vice Chair, Vernon Chong, Member, Donna Dacier, Member, Derek McGinnis, Member  
Chairman Moran presided.

Chair Moran noted that Board Member Glenn Yokum has resigned due to health issues.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **WELCOMING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman Moran welcomed the group in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting. The Chair then asked the Board Members to introduce themselves and give a little of their background. He then introduced the Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs, Roger Brautigan.

Secretary Brautigan welcomed the group and introduced the Department staff, Undersecretary Rocky Chavez, Deputy Secretary Veterans Homes Stan Oppgaard, Deputy Secretary Women Veterans Barbara Ward, Deputy Secretary Administration Jack Kirwan, Deputy Secretary Veterans Services Ted Puntillo, Deputy Secretary Farm and Home Jim Lowrey, Deputy Secretary of Communications and Legislation J.P. Tremblay, Assistant Secretary of Native American Affairs Pete Molina, Deputy Secretary Operation Welcome Home Daniel Nelan, Senior Staff Counsel Denise Lewis, Staff Counsel James Yi, Senior Property Agent Gary Bonin, and Veterans Services Coordinator Beth Kaplan.

### **MINUTES**

Executive Officer, Bonnie Kelly

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the minutes of the October 21, 2010 Board minutes.

Member Chong moved to approve the minutes. Member Richards seconded.

Motion unanimously approved and carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. **Appeal: James Holmes, Informal Hearing**  
The Board unanimously voted to uphold the decision of the Farm and Home Division to deny loan pre-approval for Mr. Holmes.
- B. **Policy C-10 Revision**  
The Policy and Procedures Committee introduced a revision to the Admission of Veterans and Veterans' Spouses policy to address the new homes that do not have independent living facilities.

Member Chong made a motion to table the policy until our February Board Meeting. Member McGinnis moved to second the motion. Motion unanimously approved and carried.

## **DEPARTMENT FORUM**

### **A. Update by Vet Services**

Ted Puntillo announced the development of a Veterans Representative Academy to train CVSO's which will be a one week training class for existing CVSO's and new incoming CVSO's to commence in January or February. Once that is in place it will be extended to Veterans service organizations.

CDVA is also currently training fifty-five AmeriCorp workers provided for by a grant and a partnership with California Volunteers. There will be eighty workers stationed across the State to assist Veterans. In addition, we have hired nine regional collaborative coordinators stationed strategically throughout the State to organize and run the collaboratives.

The new Veterans Resource Book is almost ready to go to the printer. We will be printing 150,000 this year.

Mr. Puntillo explained the PARIS Project which is a partnership with Health Care Services for public assistance reporting information to assist Veterans on MediCal to file claims. There is an outreach planned for these individuals to aid them in getting off MediCal.

A committee is going to be formed in the next month or two to design a new Veterans license plate. A move is underway to bring Troops to College to CDVA to administer the program. Steve Jorgensen has been assigned to bring the Yountville Cemetery up to Federal VA standards with the VA supplying grant money to accomplish this, so that burials can once again take place there. The plot allowance has been raised from \$300 to \$700 effective October 2011.

### **B. Operation Welcome Home Application Demonstration**

Beth Kaplan passed around a phone with a free Operation Welcome Home Ap loaded on it for the Board to see a demonstration of the information provided such as where the CVSO offices are located, answers most frequently asked questions, show where all the VA centers are located and directions to travel there. Due to some recent partnerships, this ap was created free.

**C. Homes Update**

Stan Oppegard reported on the status of the Homes and the progress of the new homes.

Mr. Oppegard requested that the Board work with the Department to create a health plan policy to provide consistency over all of the Homes.

**D. Women Veterans**

Barbara Ward distributed a copy of our new brochure “Your Military Benefits as a Woman”. Ms. Ward advised she is working in partnership with Maria Shriver’s Office to provide 600 gift cards to women Veterans in the amount of \$200, each based on eligibility, who are trying to re-enter the workforce. Half of these gift cards have now been given out. She is also working with Devries University to provide workshops on all their campuses to assist women Veterans with re-entry into the workforce. A pilot program to give a discount on child care for these women is also being worked on through Kindercare in Sacramento.

Ms. Ward announced next year’s Women’s Conference will be held in San Diego.

**E. Significant Matters**

Denise Lewis updated the Board on the pending Yountville litigation.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. 2011 Board Meeting Schedule**

The Board voted unanimously to approve the schedule as submitted.

**COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 11:00 AM to deliberate on the appeal by James Holmes.

The Board reconvened into open session at 11:25.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:45 AM.**

